

Dividing the electric discharge region into a plurality of regions is indicated in Cited Reference 1, and it is considered that the electric discharge occurs substantially in four regions in this cited reference. However, simply setting the number of regions at two is a matter that could easily be devised by a person skilled in the art.

Furthermore, a person skilled in the art could easily envision that the adjustment of light is made possible by causing only a part of the region to emit light, and [deciding] to what extent the light adjustment is made is no more than a design matter.

Moreover, Cited Reference 2, which even the applicant acknowledges as a prior art, indicates the provision of a metal film on the side of the bottom substrate and the use of transparent electrodes as the discharge electrodes of the upper-side substrate.

Table of Cited References, etc.

1. Japanese Patent Application Kokai No. 2000-90884
2. Japanese Patent Application Kokai No. H10-222083

B. The invention claimed in Claim 1 of the present application is the same as invention described in the specification or drawing(s) initially appended to the following patent application i, which was filed prior to the filing date of the present application, and which was laid open following said filing; furthermore, the inventor of the present application is not the same as the person who invented the above-mentioned invention involved in the patent application filed prior to said filing, and the applicant at the time of the present application is not the same as the applicant of the above-mentioned patent application. Thus, in accordance with the provisions of Section 29^{bis} of the Patent Law, the above-mentioned invention cannot be patented.

- i. Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-279664 (Japanese Patent Application Kokai No. 2002-93379)

Remarks: A description ([0066] through [0067]) indicating that the discharge region is divided in two and that the polarity of the voltage applied thereto is alternately switched is found in the specification or drawing(s) appended to the above-mentioned application.

[Text omitted – Translator]

Record of Results of Survey of Prior Art References

- Field surveyed: IPC 7th Edition H 01 J 65/00
- Prior Art References: Tokuhyo 2000-500277

This record of the results of a survey of prior art references does not constitute any reason for rejection.